

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 OEP-01 GSA-01 INT-08

TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

CIEP-02 STR-08 RSR-01 /116 R

DRAFTED BY AF/ C: WAHAYDEN, JR: LS

3/28/73 EXT 20996

APPROVED BY AF: RSSMITH

AF/ C - MR. PARKER

EB/ ORF/ ICD - MR. KYLE

----- 049488

R 290019 Z MAR 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EMIN

SUBJECT: SALE OF STOCKPILED MANGANESE

REF: LIBREVILLE 242

1. AMBASSADOR BOUCKAT CALLED ON DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SMITH MARCH 28 TO PRESENT LETTER TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY NEWSOM REGARDING GOG' S INTEREST IN POSSIBLE CHANGES IN PROGRAM OF USG SALES OF STOCKPILED MANGANESE.

2. AMBASSADOR REVIEWED PRIOR GOG CONCERNS WITH MANGANESE SALES AND EXPRESSED UNEASE OVER REPORTS THAT USG PLANS TO INCREASE DISPOSAL PROGRAM FROM CURRENT RATE OF 300,000 TONS ANNUALLY TO 500,000 TONS. OTHER FACTORS WHICH AFFECT GABONESE EXPORT SALES ARE PRICE, QUALITY OF MINERAL AND PROSPECTS OF RESALE OF US COMMODITY IN EUROPEAN MARKETS.

3. MR. KYLE EB/ ORF/ ICD EXPLAINED THAT GSA NOW HAS
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AUTHORIZATION TO SELL TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 3 MILLION TONS OF EXCESS STOCKPILE GRADE MANGANESE OUT OF TOTAL STOCKPILE OF 9.4 MILLION TONS. CURRENT RATE OF DISPOSAL IS 300,000 TONS ANNUALLY. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT PROPOSALS TO INCREASE BOTH THE TOTAL AMOUNT TO BE SOLD AND THE ANNUAL RATE OF DELIVERY WILL BE MADE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. IF OBJECTIVE IN USG REQUIREMENTS OF MANGANESE STOCKPILE IS LOWERED LEGISLATION WILL BE SOUGHT FROM CONGRESS TO DISPOSE OF INCREASED EXCESS. GSA HAS NOT FORMALLY PROPOSED TO DEPARTMENT AN INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL RATE OF DISPOSAL, AND THUS THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE DETAILS OF PROPOSED CHANGES. AMBASSADOR WAS ASSURED THAT DEPARTMENT IS AWARE OF IMPORTANCE TO GABON OF MANGANESE EXPORTS AND THAT GOG WOULD BE CONSULTED BEFORE ANY CHANGES ARE IMPLEMENTED IN PRESENT PROGRAM. REGARDING PRICE, DEPARTMENT OFFICER POINTED OUT THAT USG IN ITS OWN INTEREST HAS HISTORICALLY SOLD AT APPROXIMATE MARKET PRICE, WITH CUSTOMARY DISCOUNTS FOR CONTAMINATION. ALSO, DISPOSAL SALES HAVE BEEN ABSORBED IN U. S. MARKET.

4. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE TO REPLY TO GOG DEMARCHE REPORTED REFTEL.

5. COPY OF AMBASSADOR BOUCKAT'S LETTER BEING AIRPOUCHED. ROGERS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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